



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 5

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Farmers finally had a few rain free days allowing them to work day and night in an attempt to catch up on field work, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Many farmers switched to shorter season varieties of seed corn hoping the crop will have time to mature before a killing frost occurs this fall. Some intended corn acreage will be left idle this year as farmers will elect to take prevented planting insurance payments due to the lateness of the season. Planting of corn is approximately 24 days behind last year and 9 days behind the 5-year average, while planting of soybeans is about 13 days behind last year and 11 days behind the average pace. Farmers were also busy cutting and baling hay and side dressing corn with nitrogen. There have been several reports of cutworm activity in corn fields around the state.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 5.0 **days suitable for field work**. Eighty-two percent of the intended **corn** acreage has been **planted** compared with 97 percent last year and 94 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 82 percent of the crop has been planted in the north, 85 percent in the central region and 77 percent in the south. Fifty-seven percent of the corn acreage has **emerged** compared with 91 percent last year and 83 percent for the 5-year average.

Forty-nine percent of the intended **soybean** acreage has been **planted** compared with 79 percent last year and 77 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 51 percent of the crop has been planted in the north, 52 percent in the central region and 41 percent in the south. Twenty-six percent of the soybean acreage has **emerged** compared with 67 percent last year and 57 percent for the 5-year average.

Ninety-three percent of the **winter wheat** acreage has **headed** compared with 96 percent for both last year and the 5-year average. **Winter wheat condition** is rated 58 percent good to excellent compared with 70 percent last year at this time.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition continues to improve and is rated 63 percent good to excellent compared with 80 percent last year. **Livestock** continue to be in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
Percent				
Corn Planted	82	59	97	94
Corn Emerged	57	42	91	83
Soybeans Planted	49	25	79	77
Soybeans Emerged	26	13	67	57
Winter Wheat Headed	93	81	96	96
Alfalfa, First Cutting	51	14	62	56

CROP CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	2	8	38	43	9
Winter Wheat	3	9	30	46	12
Pasture	1	6	30	48	15

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK

Soil Moisture	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	2	0	1
Adequate	68	34	62
Surplus	30	66	37
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	2	1	1
Adequate	62	43	70
Surplus	36	56	29
Days Suitable	5.0	1.5	3.2

CONTACT INFORMATION

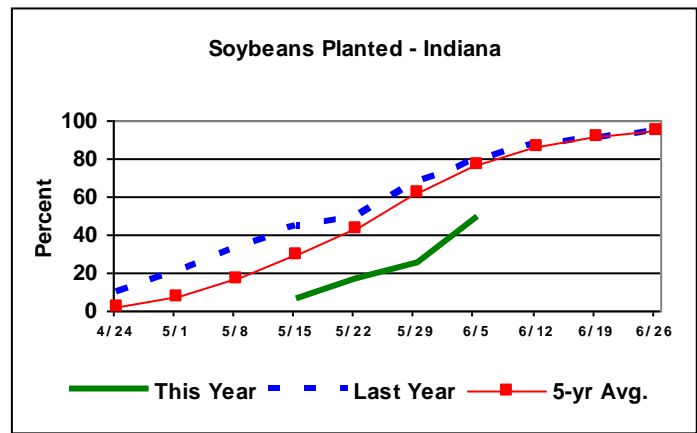
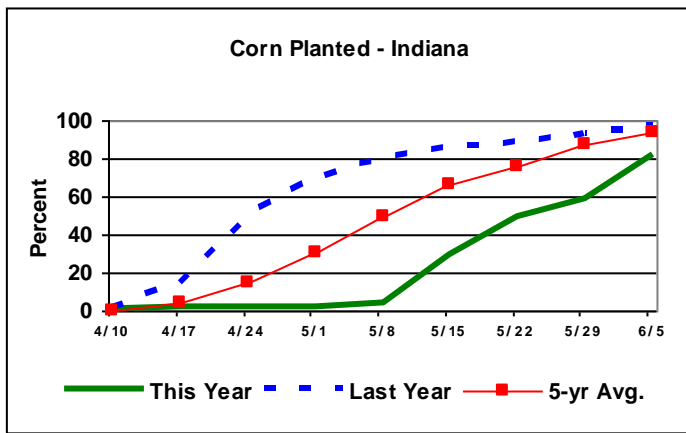
--Greg Preston, Director

--Andy Higgins, Agricultural Statistician

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http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/

Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

How You Can Help the Sun Make Hay When It Shines!

As the sun makes its appearance once again in Ohio, many forage producers are looking forward to making hay. Last week I encouraged patience to wait for firm soils before trying to mow the crop, to avoid stand damage. In addition, alfalfa could use a little time to recover from waterlogging stress. So some patience is advised.

Once the soils are firm though, how can we get hay cured as quickly as possible? Here I describe proven techniques that shorten the time between cutting and storing the crop.

Most of this article is reprinted with permission from an article published in Farm and Dairy on June 2, 2010, available at <http://www.farmanddairy.com/top-stories/make-hay-when-sun-shines-but-take-steps-in-case-weather-wont-cooperate/15050.html>. It still applies this year.

Haylage vs. hay:

Consider making silage or haylage instead of dry hay, whether it is stored in silos or bagged silage or as wrapped bales. Since haylage is preserved at higher moisture contents, it is a lot easier to get it to a proper dry matter content for safe preservation than it is to make dry hay. Proper dry matter content for chopping haylage can often be achieved within 24 hours as compared with to 3 to 4 days for dry hay.

Proper dry matter content for silage ranges from 30 to 50% (50 to 70% moisture) depending on the structure used, while wrapped balage should be dried to 40 to 55% dry matter (45 to 60% moisture). Compare that to dry hay that should be baled at 80 to 85% dry matter (15 to 20% moisture), depending on the size of the bale package. The larger and more dense the package, the dryer it has to be to avoid spoilage.

Mechanically condition the forage:

Faster drying of cut forage begins with using a well-adjusted mower-conditioner to cause crimping/cracking of the stem (roller conditioners) or abrasion to the stems (impeller conditioners). At least 90% of the stems should be cracked or crimped with roller conditioners or show some mechanical abrasion when using impeller conditioners.

Some excellent guidelines for adjusting these machines can be found in an article by Dr. Ronald Schuler of the University of Wisconsin, available online at (<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/crops/uwforage/storage.htm>).

Consider desiccants:

Desiccants are chemicals applied when mowing the crop that increase the drying rate. The most effective desiccants contain potassium carbonate or sodium carbonate. They are most effective on legumes than grasses and most useful for making hay rather than silage or balage. Desiccants work best under good drying conditions, but don't help much when conditions are humid, damp, and cloudy. Consider the weather conditions before applying them.

Maximize exposure to sunlight:

Exposure to the sun is the single most important weather factor to speed drying. So the trick is to make the sun shine on as much of the cut forage as possible. This can be done by making the windrows as wide as possible, especially this time of year when our dry weather windows can be short. Wide windrows provide for maximum forage surface area to be exposed to the sunlight.

I once heard someone say "You can't dry your laundry in a pile, so why can you expect to dry hay that way?"

The swath width should be about 70% of the actual cut area. The mowers on the market vary in how wide a windrow they can make, but even those that make narrow windrows have been modified to spread the windrow wider. Details can be found in articles at the Univ. of Wisconsin website mentioned above.

Another way to spread out and aerate the crop for faster drying is with a tedder. Tedders are especially effective with grass crops, but can cause excessive leaf loss in legumes if done with the leaves are dry. Tedders can be a good option when the ground is damp, because the crop can be mowed into narrow windrows to allow more ground exposure to sunlight for awhile, and then once the soil has dried a bit the crop can be spread out.

(continued on page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week Ending Sunday, June 5, 2011

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air							April 1, 2011 through				
	Temperature				Precip.	4 in	Avg	June 5, 2011				
						Soil		Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	98	50	74	+7	0.87	2		13.78	+5.61	34	558	-35
Francesville	94	56	73	+8	0.45	2		13.19	+5.32	34	516	-7
Valparaiso_AP_I	92	56	74	+8	0.38	3		10.05	+1.54	32	541	+46
Wanatah	92	53	71	+7	0.34	3	72	14.57	+6.52	44	438	-7
Winamac	95	56	75	+9	1.16	2	71	14.99	+7.12	39	562	+39
North Central (2)												
Plymouth	92	54	73	+7	0.87	3		15.26	+6.94	38	519	-30
South_Bend	89	53	73	+8	0.23	3		14.55	+6.88	37	558	+85
Young_America	95	58	74	+8	1.71	1		15.10	+7.27	30	577	+57
Northeast (3)												
Fort_Wayne	97	56	75	+9	0.04	1		15.51	+8.10	41	637	+138
Kendallville	92	55	73	+8	0.56	2		14.76	+7.08	48	511	+37
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	93	54	74	+6	2.00	1		17.85	+8.78	33	622	-23
Perrysville	97	58	77	+10	0.72	1	76	13.95	+5.34	30	677	+102
Spencer_Ag	95	56	75	+8	0.15	1		16.91	+7.39	33	688	+111
Terre_Haute_AFB	96	56	77	+9	0.34	1		16.66	+7.69	33	791	+153
W_Lafayette_6NW	98	55	76	+10	0.29	2	73	16.03	+7.83	34	626	+99
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	95	60	77	+9	0.95	1		14.01	+5.72	36	781	+153
Greenfield	96	57	77	+10	0.39	1		19.51	+10.64	40	681	+104
Indianapolis_AP	95	61	78	+10	0.82	1		13.77	+5.48	36	800	+172
Indianapolis_SE	93	56	76	+9	0.60	1		17.06	+8.35	36	650	+45
Tipton_Ag	96	51	76	+10	1.08	1	76	15.93	+7.63	39	617	+130
East Central (6)												
Farmland	94	55	75	+11	0.54	1	81	12.75	+4.73	42	603	+133
New_Castle	94	54	75	+10	0.28	1		21.42	+12.26	35	615	+131
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	98	62	80	+10	0.00	0		19.67	+10.26	30	995	+191
Freelandville	96	63	79	+11	0.00	0		17.71	+8.12	29	826	+153
Shoals_8S	97	55	77	+9	0.00	0		19.89	+9.80	26	763	+116
Stendal	96	63	79	+9	0.00	0		23.57	+13.18	29	891	+160
Vincennes_5NE	99	63	81	+12	0.00	0		17.33	+7.74	27	856	+183
South Central (8)												
Leavenworth	95	61	78	+11	0.08	1		22.39	+12.29	34	856	+204
Oolitic	93	56	75	+8	0.04	1	76	19.89	+10.37	34	698	+102
Tell_City	94	64	79	+10	0.00	0		20.21	+9.91	30	912	+164
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	95	56	76	+10	0.01	1		19.50	+10.37	35	716	+186
Greensburg	96	57	77	+11	0.05	1		20.23	+10.72	33	764	+180
Seymour	91	57	75	+9	0.03	1		20.35	+11.32	31	710	+96

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DFN = Departure From Normal.

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

For more weather information, visit www.awis.com or call 1-888-798-9955.

How You Can Help the Sun make Hay When It Shines! (continued)

When making haylage, if drying conditions are good, rake multiple wide swaths into a windrow just before chopping. For hay, if drying conditions are good, merge or rake multiple wide swaths into a windrow the next morning when the forage is 40 to 60% moisture to avoid excessive leaf loss.

Recent research studies and experience have shown that drying forage in wide swaths can significantly speed up drying. Faster drying in wide swaths results in less chance of rain damage, and it produces higher quality forage. Studies reported by the University of Wisconsin showed that wide swaths (72% of the cut width) result in lower NDF and higher energy in the stored forage.

Consider a preservative:

Sometimes the rain just comes quicker than we have time for making dry hay. As mentioned above, making haylage helps with this problem, but another option is to use a preservative.

The most common and effective preservatives are based on propionic acid. This acid can be caustic to equipment, but many buffered propionic preservatives are available on the market that reduce this problem.

The preservatives inhibit mold growth and so allow safe baling a moisture contents a little higher than the normal range for dry hay. Carefully follow the manufacturer directions and application rates when using preservatives.

Watch wet bales carefully!

If you do happen to bale hay at higher moisture contents than desired, keep a close watch on it for two to three weeks. You should invest in a hay temperature probe and monitor the internal temperature of the hay during the first three weeks.

Every year someone's barn burns down because of spontaneous combustion of wet hay. So if you have hay that is on the wet side, keep it outside or in a well-ventilated area. Don't stack wet hay either, because that prevents the heat and moisture left in the hay from escaping.

It is normal for hay to go through a "sweat" in the few days after baling. Internal temperatures of 110 F in the first five days after baling are quite common in our region and are not a concern.

Hay bale temperatures of 120 to 130 F will likely result in mold growth and will make the protein in the hay less available to animals. But at those temperatures, there still is not a danger of fire. The concern is if mold growth causes the temperature to go even higher.

If the temperature in the hay continues to rise, reaching 160 to 170 F, then there is cause for alarm. At those elevated temperatures, other chemical reactions begin to occur that elevate the temperature much higher, resulting in spontaneous combustion of the hay in a relatively short period of time.

My hope is that a disastrous hay fire never happens to you or someone you know! It can be avoided by careful attention to the management practices I've outlined here and of course with a little cooperation from the sun! My best wishes to you for quick, safe, and successful hay and haylage making this season!

Written by Mark Sulc, Ohio State University. Article appears in the June 2, 2011 C.O.R.N. Newsletter and can be found at:

<http://corn.osu.edu/c.o.r.n.-newsletter#6>

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